

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action mailed November 29, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action") and more particularly, the indication that Claims 11, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 9, 12-15 18, and 20 and canceled Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 21-28. Claims 9, 12-15 and 18-20 are presently pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated below.

Allowable Claims are in Independent Form

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 11 and that of intervening Claim 10. Claim 15 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 21 and Claims 13, 14, 18 and 20 are rewritten to be in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, the dependency of Claim 12 is changed from canceled Claim 10 to independent Claim 9. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Filed: April 1, 2004
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CONCLUSION

As all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. Applicants urge the Examiner to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining formal issues.

Respectfully submitted,

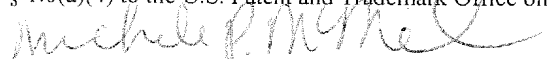


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 16, 2007.


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